

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for scheduling work and delivery of material for mass-producing items in a factory comprising:
obtaining at least one outstanding customer order, wherein each outstanding customer of the at least one outstanding customer order includes an item ordered by a customer, and
producing the item requires a required quantity of a required material;
determining a current state of an available inventory of at least one material from a plurality of material sources; and
periodically generating a work schedule and a material delivery schedule for producing the item using the at least one outstanding customer order and the current state of the available inventory, wherein
the periodically generating occurs at fixed time intervals;
the periodically generating occurs more than once during a manufacturing shift;
the determining the current state of the available inventory is performed such that the
determining the current state of the available inventory is completed immediately prior to the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule; and
the obtaining the at least one outstanding customer order is performed such that the
obtaining the customer order is completed immediately prior to the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein
the at least one outstanding customer order and the current state of the available inventory are posted continuously for the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein
the at least one outstanding customer order and the current state of the available inventory are posted continuously to an automated data warehouse.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the current state of the available inventory includes determining for each material of the at least one material of the available inventory:

a material source of the plurality of material sources from which the material can be obtained,

wherein the material source is updated continuously;

an available quantity of the available material at the material source, wherein the available quantity is updated continuously; and

an availability time of the available quantity of the material at the material source to each operation of at least one operation of each manufacturing line of at least one manufacturing line of the factory, wherein the availability time is updated continuously.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the obtaining the at least one outstanding customer order includes using a status for each customer order of at least one customer order, wherein the status for each customer order is updated continuously; and the status for each outstanding customer order corresponds to an outstanding status.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the available inventory comprises external inventory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the available inventory comprises work-in-progress inventory.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the available inventory comprises in-transit inventory.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the available inventory comprises in-house inventory.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the periodically generating the work schedule and the material schedule includes generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule every two hours.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein

the manufacturing shift comprises a number of hours less than or equal to eight; and
the periodically generating the work schedule and the material schedule includes generating the
work schedule and the material delivery schedule a plurality of times during the
manufacturing shift.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein
the plurality of material sources comprises an external material source, the external material
source providing an external inventory of a first material of the at least one material of
the available inventory; and
the determining the available inventory of the material includes using an external
visibility interface module to determine the available inventory of the first
material in the external inventory.

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. Cancelled

19. (Currently Amended) A method for scheduling work and delivery of material for
mass-producing information handling systems in a factory comprising:
obtaining a plurality of customer orders, each customer order of the plurality of customer orders
including an ordered information handling system, ~~the~~ each customer order specifying
components for ~~the~~ a corresponding ordered information handling system, producing the
information handling system ordered by the customer requiring a plurality of
components, and at least one of the plurality of components varying from one ordered
information handling system and another ordered information handling system based

upon components specified by the customer order;
determining a current state of an available inventory of at least one component from a plurality of component sources; and
periodically generating a work schedule and a material delivery schedule for producing the ordered information handling system using the customer order and the current state of the available inventory, wherein
the determining the current state of the available inventory is performed such that the determining the current state of the available inventory is completed immediately prior to the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule; and
the obtaining each of the plurality of customer orders is performed such that the obtaining the plurality of customer orders is completed immediately prior to the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein
the customer order and the current state of the available inventory are posted continuously for the generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein
the customer order and the current state of the available inventory are posted continuously to an automated data warehouse.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the determining the current state of the available inventory includes
determining a current state of the available inventory for each component of the plurality of components;
a component source of the plurality of component sources from which the component can be obtained, wherein the component source is updated continuously;
an available quantity of the available component at the component source, wherein the available quantity is updated continuously; and
an availability time of the available quantity of the component at the component source to each operation of at least one operation of each manufacturing line of at least one manufacturing line of the factory, wherein the availability time is updated continuously.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the obtaining the customer order includes using a status for each customer order, wherein the status for each customer order is updated continuously; and the status for each customer order corresponds to an outstanding status.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the available inventory comprises external inventory.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the available inventory comprises work-in-progress inventory.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the available inventory comprises in-transit inventory.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the available inventory comprises in-house inventory.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the periodically generating the work schedule and the material schedule includes generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule every two hours.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein a manufacturing shift comprises a number of hours less than or equal to eight; and the periodically generating the work schedule and the material schedule includes generating the work schedule and the material delivery schedule a plurality of times during the manufacturing shift.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the plurality of component sources comprises an external component source, the external component source providing an external inventory of ~~the~~ a first component; and the determining the available inventory of the component includes using an external visibility interface module to determine the available inventory of the first component in the external inventory.